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Message Text

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17
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /106 W
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R 270847Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5580
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5614

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT KS
SUBJECT: KIM YONG-SAM HITS PARK GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY: NDP PRESIDENT KIM YONG-SAM AUGUST 27 DIRECTED SHARP CRITICISM AT PRESENT SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE SINCE GAINING PARTY LEADERSHIP PREVIOUS WEEK. HIS REMARKS, CONTAINED IN PREPARED TEXT, INCLUDED DEMANDS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE, DISBANDING KCIA, AND RESTORATION CIVIL LIBERTIES. IM APPARENTLY MOVING TO COALESCE OPPOSITION WITH HIMSELF AS LEADER. END SUMMARY.

1. IN FIRST MAJOR PUBLIC CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM SINCE AUGUST 23 REPEAL EMERGENCY MEASURES KIM YONG-SAM DEMANDED THAT PRESIDENT PARK AMEND CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER THROUGH DIRECT CHOICE OF PEOPLE. HE ASSERTED THAT PARK REGIME JUSTIFIES SYSTEM UNDER GUISE NATIONAL SECURITY AND GOAL OF NATIONAL UNIFICATION, BUT THAT IN REALITY SYSTEM HAS LED TO INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION AND PRODUCED SUCH DOMESTIC REACTION AGAINSTCONSTITUTIONAL ORDER THAT GOVERNMENT WAS FORCED TO PROCLAIM EMERGENCY MEASURES TO MAINTAIN ITS OWN POWER.
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2. KIM DEMANDED END TO "INTELLIGENCE POLITICS" BY DISBANDING THE CIA AND GIVING ITS COMMUNIST SURVEILLANCE DUTIES TO OTHER AGENCIES. HE CRITIICIZED OPERATION OF CIA CALLING IT AN OBSTACLE TO DEVELOPMENT DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM AND FREE PRESS.

3. IN FIELD OF CIVIL RIGHTS KIM DEMANDED THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG BE ALLOWED FREEDOM OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND FOREIGN TRAVEL; THAT POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, INTELLECTUAL LEADERS AND STUDENTS ARRESTED UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURES 1 AND 4 BE GIVEN AMNESTY; THAT FIVE JAILED FORMER NDP ASSEMBLYMEN BE RELEASED; AND THAT RIGHT OF HABEAS CORPUS BE RESTORED TO CRIMINAL CODE.

4. KIM WARNED GOVERNMENT TO STOP DICTATORIAL PRACTICE OF OPPRESSING OPPOSITION PARTY AND CONTROLLING PRESS. HE PLEDGED TO CONCENTRATE EFFORTS FOR REFORM IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHILE KEEPING BEST INTEREST OF PEOPLE IN MIND.

5. IN OTHER ACTIVITIES KIM IS REPORTEDLY ATTEMPTING TO INCORPORATE THE SPLINTER DEMOCRATIC UNIFICATION PARTY (DUP) AND OPPOSITION INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN INTO THE NDP. PRESS AUGUST 27 REPORTS THAT KIM VISITED DUP LEADER YANG IL-TONG TO DISCUSS PARTY MERGER. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT KIM VISITED WITH FORMER OPPOSITION LEADERS YU CHIN-O, MME. PAK SUN-CHON, KIM TAE-CHUNG AND ATTEMPTED TO SEE FORMER ROK PRESIDENT YUN PO-SON.

6. COMMENT: AS EXPECTED KIM HAS WASTED LITTLE TIME IN TAKING STRONG PUBLIC STAND. FOR MOST PART KIM'S PLATFORM ON CONSTITUTION, KCIA AND OTHER ISSUES IS SIMILAR TO DEMANDS OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVISTS IN LATE 1973 WHICH LED TO THE IMPOSITION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES. HE IS OBVIOUSLY DEVELOPING HIS IMAGE AS CLEAR OPPONENT OF GOVERNMENT AND STAKING OUT CLAIM TO LEADERSHIP OF FULL OPPOSITION SPECTRUM. BASED ON HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESS CONFERENCE IT APPEARS KIM IS TRYING TO GO BEYOND POLITICAL PARTIES IN COALESCING OPPOSITION TO INCLUDE OTHER DISSIDENT ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY.

7. THERE HAS AS YET BEEN NO DIRECT GOVERNMENT REACTION TO KIM'S PRESS CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, VICE MCUI MINISTER PERSONALLY EXPRESSED CONCERN TO PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNSELLOR THAT ANY SERIOUS REVIVAL

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BY KIM OF PRE-EMERGENCY MEASURE DEMANDS FOR
CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COULD STIMULATE STERN
REACTION FROM BLUE HOUSE.
ERICSON

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, KS, (KIM YONG-SAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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